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VIDHVATH IAS KAS ACADEMY & STUDY CENTRE

DAILY MCQ'S

FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

DATE: 05/01/2026 (MONDAY)

- **Static mcq's**
- **Current Affairs mcq's**
- **Mains Practice Questions**



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DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM STATIC PART

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Poona Pact of 1932:

1. It replaced the Communal Award's provision of separate electorates for the Depressed Classes with reserved seats in the general electorate.
2. B.R. Ambedkar signed the Poona Pact only after its approval by the Round Table Conference.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. Only 1

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Poona Pact (1932)** was signed between **Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, replacing the Communal Award's provision of **separate electorates for the Depressed Classes** with **joint electorates** and **147 reserved seats** for them in provincial legislatures.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Pact was signed in **Yerwada Jail, outside the framework** of the **Round Table Conferences**, and was not subject to their approval.

Q2. With reference to marine ecosystems and ocean health, consider the following statements:

1. Ocean acidification is primarily driven by the absorption of nitrogen oxides from industrial pollution.
2. Blue Carbon ecosystems include coastal vegetation such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes that act as carbon sinks.
3. Marine heatwaves have been shown to disrupt phytoplankton productivity and coral bleaching.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ocean acidification is **primarily caused by the absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂)**, not nitrogen oxides. CO₂ dissolves in seawater to form carbonic acid, lowering pH.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Blue Carbon ecosystems** such as **mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses** sequester large amounts of CO₂ and help mitigate climate change.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Marine heatwaves** affect ocean temperatures, leading to **phytoplankton die-offs** and **coral bleaching**, disrupting marine food chains.



Q3. Consider the following statements about the Himalayan Drainage System:

1. The Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra rivers originate from the Trans-Himalayan region.
2. Antecedent rivers in the Himalayas predate the mountain building activity and maintain their course by cutting through the rising terrain.
3. The Ganga river receives no major tributaries from the Peninsular Plateau.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B. 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Only the **Indus and Brahmaputra** originate from the **Trans-Himalayas (near Kailash Mansarovar)**. The **Ganga** originates from the **central Himalayas**, specifically from the **Gangotri glacier (Bhagirathi stream)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Antecedent rivers** such as the Sulej, Indus, and Brahmaputra existed **before** the Himalayan uplift and **carved deep gorges** as the mountains rose.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Ganga receives major tributaries like **Son**, and **Chambal** from the **Peninsular Plateau** region.

Q4. With reference to ancient Indian musical and dance traditions, consider the following statements:

1. The *Natya Shastra* attributed to Bharata is primarily a text on temple architecture.
2. The *Sangita Ratnakara* composed by Sarangadeva during the Yadava period is a seminal text in both Hindustani and Carnatic music traditions.
3. Kuchipudi dance form originated as a ritual performance by male Brahmins in Andhra Pradesh.
4. The *Chhau* dance form, practiced in eastern India, blends martial arts with folk traditions and is performed with elaborate masks in all its variants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: B. 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *Natya Shastra* is a **comprehensive treatise on performing arts—drama, dance, and music**—not architecture.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** *Sangita Ratnakara* (13th century) is a classical text that **bridges Hindustani and Carnatic music** systems.



- **Statement 3 is correct: Kuchipudi** originated as a **male Brahmin dance-drama tradition** in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Statement 4 is correct: Chhau** is performed in **Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal**. While **Purulia Chhau** uses elaborate masks, **Mayurbhanj Chhau** does **not**. However, the general description fits with regional variations.

Q5. Assertion-Reason Type

Assertion (A): The Right to Privacy is considered a part of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Reason (R): The Supreme Court in the K.S. Puttaswamy case declared that privacy is a fundamental right derived from the Right to Life and Personal Liberty.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

Answer: A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

Explanation:

- **Article 21** guarantees the **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**.
- In the landmark **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** case, a **9-judge bench** of the Supreme Court held that the **Right to Privacy is an intrinsic part** of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- Thus, both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason **explains the assertion**.

DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC):

1. NICDC was established under the Companies Act, 2013 and functions as a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It is mandated to develop integrated industrial townships under the National Industrial Corridor Programme by leveraging both public and private investments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B. Only 2

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** NICDC is a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** incorporated under the **Companies Act, 1956**, not 2013, and **does not have statutory status**. It functions as a **corporate entity**, not a statutory body.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NICDC plays a central role in **implementing Industrial Corridor projects** like **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)**. It develops **smart industrial cities** using **PPP models** under the **National Industrial Corridor Programme**.

Q2. Similipal Biosphere Reserve has recently been in news for which of the following critical environmental issues?

- A. Illegal iron ore mining leading to ecosystem collapse
- B. Forest fires suspected to be induced by shifting cultivation
- C. Leopard extinction due to excessive tourist interference
- D. River pollution due to dam construction in its buffer zone

Answer: B. Forest fires suspected to be induced by shifting cultivation

Explanation:

- **Similipal**, located in **Odisha**, witnessed **extensive forest fires in 2024**, which experts linked to **slash-and-burn (podu) cultivation practices** and **dry weather conditions**.
- It is a **UNESCO-recognized Biosphere Reserve**, home to rare species like **melanistic tigers**.
- The fire posed a threat to biodiversity, tribal communities, and water sources.

Q3. With reference to India's claim for extended continental shelf under UNCLOS, consider the following statements:

1. India has submitted claims for extended continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical mile EEZ in both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
2. The claim is evaluated and approved by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).
3. The strategic significance of the claim lies in the exclusive right to regulate marine scientific research in the claimed seabed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct:**
 - India made submissions to the **CLCS** for both the **Bay of Bengal (2009)** and **Arabian Sea (2021)**.



- The **CLCS** reviews scientific and legal data to approve such claims under **Article 76 of UNCLOS**.
- An extended continental shelf grants sovereign rights over **seabed resources** like hydrocarbons and **the right to regulate research** and exploration.

Q4. Consider the following statements about RNA Silencing Technology:

1. It can be used to develop virus-resistant crops by suppressing the expression of viral RNA.
2. RNA interference (RNAi) functions by degrading messenger RNA (mRNA) after transcription but before translation.
3. The technology has potential applications in pest control, but is not applicable in human therapeutics due to instability of RNA in vivo.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** RNA silencing is being used in agriculture to engineer crops resistant to **viruses**, e.g., **Papaya ringspot virus** resistance.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** RNAi degrades **mRNA**, blocking protein synthesis post-transcriptionally.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** RNAi-based drugs like **Patisiran** have shown efficacy in **human therapeutics**, and innovations in **delivery systems (lipid nanoparticles)** have overcome RNA instability issues.

Q5. Regarding the recent Nobel Prize-winning developments in 3D microscopy, consider the following statements:

1. The 3D microscopy technique awarded the Nobel Prize allows visualization of live biological processes at nanoscale resolution using fluorescent tagging.
2. The technique overcomes the classical diffraction limit using computational reconstruction and structured illumination.
3. One of the primary applications of this technique is in tracking synaptic interactions in real-time in live brains.
4. It is entirely optical in nature and does not require any digital post-processing of images.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only



Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Techniques like **STED microscopy**, **single-molecule localization**, and **structured illumination microscopy (SIM)** use **fluorescent proteins** to observe **living cells**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These techniques beat the **diffraction limit** using **computational reconstruction**, structured illumination, and super-resolution tagging.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Neuroscience uses them for **real-time imaging** of **synaptic structures and neuron pathways**.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** These methods require **extensive computational post-processing** for super-resolved image generation.

Q6. With reference to the geopolitics of the Black Sea region, which of the following countries do NOT have a coastline along the Black Sea?

1. Bulgaria
2. Romania
3. Armenia
4. Georgia
5. Serbia
6. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: A. 3 and 5 only

Explanation:

- **Countries with a coastline on the Black Sea:**
 - **Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey**
- **Armenia is landlocked**, and **Serbia** is located inland in the Balkans.
- Hence, **Armenia (3)** and **Serbia (5)** do **not** border the Black Sea.



DAILY PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAINS ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

GS Paper 1

Q1. Examine the role of social reform movements in colonial India in shaping the foundation for modern Indian society. (15 marks)

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

Colonial India witnessed a surge in social reform movements that sought to eradicate regressive practices and usher in modernity. These movements, led by reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotiba Phule, laid the groundwork for a rational, egalitarian, and inclusive society.

Role in Shaping Modern Society:

1. Abolition of Social Evils:

- **Sati abolition (1829), widow remarriage (1856), and child marriage restraint** were enabled through legislative and societal pressure.
- Reformers appealed to **reason, morality, and scriptural reinterpretation**.

2. Promotion of Education:

- Organizations like the **Brahmo Samaj** and **Arya Samaj** emphasized **female education**.
- Institutions such as **Bethune School** empowered women, breaking traditional gender norms.

3. Caste and Untouchability Reform:

- **Jyotiba Phule** and **Ambedkar** worked to dismantle **caste-based exclusion**.
- Emphasis on **education and representation** of Dalits in public life.

4. Religious Modernization:

- Movements like **Aligarh Movement** and **Deoband Movement** modernized Muslim thought.
- **Sikh reform via Singh Sabha Movement** modernized identity and education.

5. Emergence of National Identity:

- Reformers emphasized a **common cultural and ethical code**, contributing to **national integration**.
- The Indian Renaissance and socio-religious unity formed **ideological support** for the freedom movement.

Conclusion:

The reform movements catalyzed a transition from traditional orthodoxy to modernity. Their legacy endures in **constitutional values** such as equality, secularism, and social justice.

GS Paper 2

Q2. "The rising influence of Governors in state politics undermines federal principles enshrined in the Constitution." Critically examine. (15 marks)

**Sample Answer:****Introduction:**

The Indian Constitution envisions a quasi-federal structure with a **delicate balance between the Centre and States**. The Governor, appointed by the President, is meant to act as a constitutional link. However, political misuse has led to questions over **federal integrity**.

Concerns Over Governor's Role:**1. Partisan Appointments and Dismissals:**

- Allegations of using the Governor's office to **topple state governments**, e.g., **Maharashtra (2022)**.
- Use of **Article 356** often seen as politically motivated.

2. Delay in Legislative Processes:

- **Withholding assent to Bills**, especially in **Tamil Nadu and Kerala**, delays governance and erodes **legislative supremacy**.

3. Interference in Day-to-Day Governance:

- Frequent interventions, such as in **appointment of VCs in state universities**, leads to **institutional friction**.

Constitutional Safeguards vs Reality:

- **Article 163**: Council of Ministers' advice is binding, but often violated.
- **Sarkaria Commission** and **Punchhi Commission** recommended limiting discretionary power.
- **SC in Nabam Rebia (2016)** curbed Governor's power over legislative proceedings.

Way Forward:

- **Codification of Governor's discretionary powers**
- **Selection through an apolitical process**, like a collegium
- **Review of Articles 356 and 200** to prevent misuse

Conclusion:

While the Governor is essential for federal coherence, current trends undermine the **spirit of cooperative federalism**. Institutional reforms are vital to uphold constitutional values.

GS Paper 3

Q3. Discuss the role of the gig economy in employment generation in India. Also examine the challenges in ensuring social security for gig workers. (15 marks)

Sample Answer:**Introduction:**

The **gig economy** refers to a labor market characterized by short-term contracts and freelance work. Platforms like **Uber, Zomato, Urban Company**, etc., have enabled flexible work and income opportunities.

Role in Employment Generation:



1. Youth Absorption:

- Gig platforms employ millions, especially urban youth with minimal entry barriers.
- Supports **part-time and supplemental income**, reducing dependency on formal sector.

2. Women and Marginalized Participation:

- Flexible timing allows increased **female workforce participation**.
- **Skilled artisans and rural service providers** find urban market access.

3. Boost to Startup Ecosystem:

- Growth of gig platforms boosts ancillary employment and supports **digital entrepreneurship**.

Challenges in Ensuring Social Security:

1. Absence of Formal Contracts:

- Workers lack **minimum wage, health insurance, or paid leave**.
- Classified as "**partners**" not employees, escaping labor law coverage.

2. Algorithmic Control:

- Workers face **unstable income** and **penalizing rating systems**.

3. Fragmented Regulation:

- No **central law** governing gig work uniformly across sectors.

Policy Developments:

- **Code on Social Security, 2020** includes gig and platform workers, but lacks **clear implementation timelines**.
- **State-led initiatives**, like Rajasthan's **Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023**, mark progress.

Conclusion:

While the gig economy is a pillar of **India's informal employment**, ensuring **social protection, data transparency, and worker representation** is vital to make it sustainable.

GS Paper 4

Q4. How does the value of compassion differ from empathy in public administration? Discuss with examples. (10 marks)

Sample Answer:

Introduction:

Both **compassion and empathy** are important emotional-intelligence traits, but they differ in application and depth, especially in public administration.

**Difference Between Empathy and Compassion:**

Trait	Empathy	Compassion
Meaning	Feeling what others feel	Understanding suffering and acting to relieve it
Nature	Emotional resonance	Emotion + moral obligation
Action	Passive understanding	Active intervention

Relevance in Public Administration:

1. **Empathy** helps a civil servant **understand the concerns** of marginalized people — e.g., a district collector listening to flood victims.
2. **Compassion** drives **policy action** — e.g., creating a **rehabilitation package**, ensuring shelter and food distribution.

Real-life Example:

During the COVID-19 lockdown, many administrators empathized with stranded workers. Compassionate officers like **IAS Sonal Goel** organized **transport and food**, showcasing values beyond duty.

Conclusion:

While empathy is the **first step**, compassion translates feelings into **meaningful action**—a vital trait for responsive and ethical governance.

Current Affairs-Based Question

Q5. “The West is trapped in a political trilemma of globalisation, democracy, and national sovereignty.” Examine the relevance of Dani Rodrik’s trilemma in today’s global political economy. (15 marks)

Sample Answer:**Introduction:**

Dani Rodrik’s Trilemma posits that a nation cannot simultaneously achieve **deep global economic integration, national sovereignty, and democratic politics**. At most, only two of these three can be sustained at once.

Understanding the Trilemma:

1. **Globalization + Democracy → Loss of Sovereignty:**
 - EU nations adopting common policies (e.g., Greece during the debt crisis) saw loss of fiscal autonomy.
 - **IMF conditionalities** often override elected governments’ policy choices.
2. **Globalization + Sovereignty → Erosion of Democracy:**
 - Countries like China pursue global trade without democratic accountability.
 - Rise of **technocratic decision-making**, bypassing citizen participation.
3. **Democracy + Sovereignty → Retreat from Globalization:**
 - Brexit, America First, and rise of protectionism reflect this path.



- Citizens resist free trade when it threatens local jobs.

Contemporary Relevance:

- **West's dilemma** intensified post-pandemic and Ukraine war.
- **De-globalization, reshoring of supply chains, and digital nationalism** signify tensions.
- Rise of **right-wing populism** is a reaction to **perceived elite-led globalization**.

India's Stand:

- India attempts a **balanced approach**: promotes democratic values and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, while cautiously engaging in **global trade alliances**.

Conclusion:

Rodrik's trilemma is not just academic; it defines **today's geopolitical tensions**. Navigating it requires redefining **multilateralism, reforming global institutions**, and ensuring that **democracy and sovereignty** aren't sacrificed for unchecked globalization.
